

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT	
SUBJECT	1. Practical Application of the Appeasement Policy 2. Police Activity	DATE DISTR.	1 October 1953
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1. The National Security Authority (AVH) is being dissolved and its name abolished. The organization which is replacing it is called "Operational Branch of the Ministry of the Interior." Some of the former AVH members have been dismissed, some transferred to clerical work in other departments, and some transferred to the regular police. It is likely that routine police operations are being hindered by this reorganization. It has been reliably reported that Zalai (fnu) has returned to the passport office and is working with Tatai (fnu).
2. The Hungarian Government apparently intends to abolish the prison camps by 1 October 1953. Many prisoners are being released without further formality; particularly those who were imprisoned for economic offenses and who, if brought to trial, would probably get less than two years. Those who are being brought to trial are receiving lighter sentences than they would have last year and, in many cases, lighter than provided for by law.
3. Guard towers around the camp at Kistarcsa have been dismantled and the number of guards reduced by half. Detainees have been told that everybody either will be brought to trial or released by the end of October, but that anyone who attempts to escape will not benefit from the amnesty.
4. Gabor Peter, who was the former head of the AVH, his wife, his sister, her husband, and their two drivers were executed at Nyirgyhaza.
5. Deportation orders appear to have been rescinded. Deportees have each received a letter which states that they are free to live wherever they wish on the same terms as any other Hungarian citizen. Although they are still unable to return to their homes (because it is now impossible for any Hungarian to obtain permission to move to Budapest), they are permitted to visit the capital for a few days and have been making use of this opportunity. Prime Minister Nagy's announcement that private trading would be permitted again has apparently been taken at face value by many former storekeepers who hope to re-establish their businesses.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC							
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6. Stockler, the arrested Zionist, is being interrogated in connection with alleged espionage for Jewish organizations outside Hungary.
7. Katz (fnu) has been released after 14 weeks of interrogation. He had been employed as a tax collector by the Jewish community and had traveled all over Hungary in this capacity. He was questioned mainly in connection with alleged espionage for the Israel Legation and the smuggling of Jews out of Hungary. Katz, who is suffering from high blood pressure, was beaten and subjected to various forms of torture. At the time of his arrest Katz had a forged medical certificate stating that he suffered from schizophrenia, and he finally obtained his release by pretending to be mentally ill.
8. Lajos Freund, who was shot by a frontier guard while trying to cross the frontier illegally with his wife and two children, has been sentenced to one year's imprisonment, and Weidenfeld (fnu), another escapee, to three and one half years. Both sentences are light in comparison with past sentences for the same offense. The two smugglers who tried to lead them across the frontier were sentenced to seven and one half years.
9. A meeting of guides and persons planning to cross the border illegally was surprised by the police, and two of the guides opened fire. The two men who had fired the shots were sentenced to death and executed, while several others were sentenced to a number of years of imprisonment.

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